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THOMAS L. GARTHWAITE, M.D.
Director and Chief Medical Officer

FRED LEAF
Chief Operating Officer

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
313 N. Figueroa, Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 240-8101

July 7, 2005

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Thomas L. Garthwaite, M.D.
Director and Chief Medical Officer

fr Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H.
Director of Public Health and Health Officer

SUBJECT: **WEST NILE VIRUS PREVENTION AND OUTREACH IN THE ANTELOPE VALLEY**

On June 14, 2005, the Board approved a motion by Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich directing Public Health to 1) continue the collaborative efforts for surveillance and mosquito control with the Mosquito and Vector Control Districts, and the rural areas such as the Antelope Valley; 2) include educational meetings and outreach activities regarding West Nile Virus to horse owners, animal supply stores, adult day care centers, senior homes and other community groups that can be identified; and 3) report to the Board within 30 days.

Attached is the report on our activities to implement the motion. Public Health's Area Health Office for Service Planning Area 1, Acute Communicable Disease Control, and Environmental Health have collaborated on this effort.

We will provide a further status report in 30 days. In the meantime, if you have any questions or need additional information, please let either of us know.

TLG:JEF:dd

Attachment

c: Chief Administrative Office
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Yvonne Brathwaite Burke
Second District

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Third District

Don Knabe
Fourth District

Michael D. Antonovich
Fifth District

**WEST NILE VIRUS PREVENTION AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES
IN THE ANTELOPE VALLEY
JULY 7, 2005**

The three Public Health units primarily involved in the prevention of West Nile Virus (WNV) infection are the Service Planning Area (SPA) 1 Health Office, Acute Communicable Disease Control (ACDC), and Environmental Health. Each unit collaborates to assure that preventive measures, including health education, surveillance, and mosquito abatement, are in place for the residents of Antelope Valley. This work also includes close collaboration with the Antelope Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District.

Mosquito Surveillance and Control

Environmental Health Staff have been working with the Antelope Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District to provide mosquito surveillance and control services for areas not previously covered. Coverage was provided last year through a service contract which ended on June 30, 2005. Environmental Health supported and assisted in the District's effort to support a move toward annexation of a large portion of the uncovered area. This included the Quartz Hills, Rancho Vista and parts of Palmdale area. A ballot measure to approve annexation to the District was put before the community and, if passed, would include these areas as part of the Antelope Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District. The results for that recent ballot measure will be tabulated on July 12, 2005.

Other unincorporated areas from Quartz Hills west toward Santa Clarita along Highway 14 were not part of the ballot measure. To provide coverage, the Department has requested a new contract proposal from the Antelope Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District for one additional year.

Surveillance

Antelope Valley Hospital has agreed to participate in active surveillance for human WNV illness, similar to a project that ACDC established in the San Gabriel Valley in 2004. Each week, ACDC will be contacting the hospital's Infection Control professional to ascertain that all cases of meningitis and encephalitis have been reported and that WNV testing was obtained if another etiology was not confirmed. ACDC will assist with specimen pick-up for testing by the Public Health Laboratory.

Health Education and Outreach

SPA 1 Public Health Nursing has been re-contracting all of the town and city councils to provide an updated version of the Speaker's Bureau WNV prevention program. Four town council presentations have occurred this year, one is scheduled and staff are in communications with seven additional councils. In addition, staff have also contacted all of the local chambers of commerce, senior residential communities, and senior centers, offering to present this program. Three presentations are scheduled at senior or adult day care centers and additional presentations are pending.

We are also enhancing outreach to the ranching and farming community by contacting and distributing WNV prevention education materials through feed and farm supply stores, and working with the real estate community to identify local areas where residents own and board horses. Our Public Health Investigators and Public Health Nurses will conduct this outreach, contacting local homeowners' associations and equestrian/riding clubs to provide educational presentations and offer prevention literature. Environmental Health staff are also distributing WNV literature while conducting routine and complaint inspection activities in the area.



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August 9, 2005

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Thomas L. Garthwaite, M.D.
Director and Chief Medical Officer

Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H.
Director of Public Health and Health Officer

SUBJECT: **BOARD MOTION ON WEST NILE VIRUS PREVENTION AND OUTREACH**

On June 14, 2005, the Board approved a motion by Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich directing Public Health to 1) continue the collaborative efforts for surveillance and mosquito control with the Mosquito and Vector Control Districts, and the rural areas such as the Antelope Valley; 2) include educational meetings and outreach activities regarding West Nile Virus to horse owners, animal supply stores, adult day care centers, senior homes and other community groups that can be identified; and 3) report to the Board within 30 days. This is a status report on efforts since our July 7, 2005 report.

Since our last report, the following activities have occurred:

- Service Planning Area 1 Public Health Nurses have completed outreach to all town councils and local groups that agreed to have presentations. To date they have completed fourteen presentations.
- Future presentations are pending response from groups previously contacted. We also will conduct a large outreach on August 30, 2005, at the Antelope Valley Fair Senior Day.
- Our Public Health Investigators are also distributing information to local feed and farm supply stores in the region.
- Environmental Health staff continue to distribute information during their regular inspection duties in facilities throughout SPA 1.

Each Supervisor
August 9, 2005
Page 2

- The ballot results for annexation of Quartz Hills, Rancho Vista and parts of Palmdale into the Antelope Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District were announced on July 13, 2005. Voters approved the assessment and coverage will begin shortly.
- The unincorporated areas from Quartz Hills west toward Santa Clarita along Highway 14 were not part of the annexation election. This area will be provided with mosquito control services for an additional year beginning July 1, 2005 through a service contract with the Antelope Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District and the Department of Health Services. However, Environmental Health recently submitted and received an award of \$19,425 to supplement Mosquito Control efforts to mitigate the threat of West Nile virus transmission in this area.

Future follow-ups regarding our efforts to control West Nile Virus in the Antelope Valley will be contained in the 2005 West Nile Virus Action Plan Monthly Follow-Up Report submitted monthly to the Board. If you have any questions or need additional information, please let either of us know.

TLG:JEF:dd
506:023

c: Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors



THOMAS L. GARTHWAITE, M.D.
Director and Chief Medical Officer

FRED LEAF
Chief Operating Officer

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
313 N. Figueroa, Los Angeles, CA 90012
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August 12, 2005

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Thomas L. Garthwaite, M.D.
Director and Chief Medical Officer

fw Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H.
Public Health Director and Health Officer

SUBJECT: 2005 WEST NILE VIRUS ACTION PLAN, MONTHLY FOLLOW-UP REPORT

On March 8, 2005 we presented the Board our West Nile Virus (WNV) prevention and surveillance plan for 2005. This is the fifth monthly follow-up report describing WNV prevention and surveillance activities in 2005.

The first human case of WNV in Los Angeles County was confirmed on August 10, 2005 in an adult woman from the San Fernando Valley. Long Beach also reported a human case this week.

Two sentinel chickens from Antelope Valley have shown evidence of WNV-infection in late May and early June. Fifteen WNV-infected dead birds have been identified in seven LAC census tracts, including those in Long Beach. Eighty-four WNV-infected mosquito pools have been detected, including those in Long Beach.

New prevention educational sheets with WNV information are available in English and Spanish. These static cling sheets can stick to a variety of surfaces and have been distributed to local businesses and other agencies for posting, especially in areas where positive mosquito pools have been identified.

Attached is the updated summary action plan with the status of the specific activities. We will provide you with our next status report by September 16, 2005. In the meantime, if you have any questions or need additional information, let either of us know.

TLG:JEF:RC:sc
502:011 REF 2813 (A007LM2005 #5)

Attachment

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**WEST NILE VIRUS SURVEILLANCE AND PREVENTION
SUMMARY ACTION PLAN – Updated August 3, 2005**

Agency	WNV Activity	Description	Completion Date	Implementation Date	Notes
DHS ACDC	Human surveillance	Clinician letter -- mandatory WNV reporting and prevention message	Completed	April 18, 2005	On July 1, 2004, the Health Officer made WNV infection reportable by clinicians and laboratories within one working day.
DHS ACDC	Human surveillance	Laboratory letter -- mandatory WNV reporting of results	Completed	April 18, 2005	
DHS ACDC	Human surveillance	Clinical consultation on WNV to medical providers	Continuous year-round	Continuous	Schedule medical grand rounds for physicians
DHS ACDC	Human surveillance	Active surveillance at selected high risk areas within LAC	Continuous WNV Season	Continuous	Hospitals in eastern county were invited to join active surveillance project. Hospital will report all WNV tests performed in house or will receive free WNV testing by PHL.
DHS ACDC	Human surveillance	Update database and epidemiologic case history forms	Continuous	Date of first case	Ongoing data cleaning
DHS ACDC	Human surveillance	Facilitate HIPAA Training for Mosquito Abatement District Management staff	Completed	April 29, 2005	ACDC facilitated LADHS HIPAA Training for key MAD management staff.
DHS ACDC	Human surveillance	Conduct Epidem. investigation	Continuous year-round	Date of first case	ACDC professional staff review and investigate all suspected WNV case reports, clinical laboratory reports, and blood bank positive donors.

**WEST NILE VIRUS SURVEILLANCE AND PREVENTION
SUMMARY ACTION PLAN – Updated August 3, 2005**

Agency	WNV Activity	Description	Completion Date	Implementation Date	Notes
DHS ACDC	Human surveillance	Communication to local mosquito & vector control (MVCD) districts and CADHS	Continuous year-round	Date of first case	ACDC communicates pertinent location to local MVCD so it can assess and apply control measures if warranted.
DHS ACDC	Human surveillance	Communication to State DHS	Continuous year-round	Continuous	To synchronize statistics with state
DHS ACDC	Human surveillance	Summary reports of human cases	Continuous year-round	Date of first case	Analysis of confirmed cases on weekly or monthly basis. Update LAC DHS web page with accurate epidemiologic information.
DHS ACDC	Human surveillance	Analysis of human WNV surveillance data	Continuous year-round	Continuous	Generate weekly surveillance report - send by e-mail to appropriate agencies - post on website for public
DHS ACDC	Health Education	Coordinate prevention messages, press conferences and press releases with MVCDs and State	Continuous	Continuous	Collaborate to extent possible on standard public health messages and special releases, informed by survey.
DHS ACDC	Health Education	Update WNV educational cards (palm cards) to reflect findings of LA Survey.	In process Available: English, Spanish	Sept 1, 2005	Pending: Korean, Chinese, Tagalog, Farsi, Vietnamese, Russian, Thai, Cambodian, Arabic
DHS ACDC	Health Education	Public Service Announcements in multiple radio stations; Clear Channel.	Completed	June 26-30, 2005	A WNV prevention radio message ran in English and Radio stations through a contract with Clear Channel.

**WEST NILE VIRUS SURVEILLANCE AND PREVENTION
SUMMARY ACTION PLAN – Updated August 3, 2005**

Agency	WNV Activity	Description	Completion Date	Implementation Date	Notes
DHS ACDC	Health Education	WNV Prevention messages on static cling-on sheets for posting.	Completed	June 1, 2005	Materials available in English and Spanish available for posting on any surface.
DHS ACDC	Health Education	How to Mosquito Proof Your Home & Community	Completed	March 16, 2005	Parks & Recreations will partner with distribution of health education materials
DHS ACDC	Health Education	Toll free public information line in multiple languages	Completed	May 11, 2005	Review and update messages monthly or as needed.
DHS ACDC	Health Education	Web page provides up-to-date figures on WNV activity in LAC. Links to appropriate sites for more information; access to down-loadable materials	Ongoing	Ongoing	
DHS ACDC	WNV comprehensive status report	Provide information on cumulative human, bird, and mosquito indicators.	Continuous year-round	Continuous	Information to be e-mailed to appropriate agencies, posted on WNV web site
DHS CHS	Speakers Bureau (Area Health Officers)	New 2005 WNV Presentation	Completed	April 12, 2005	14 presentations were provided by the speaker's bureau in 2005.
LAC VPH	Dead Bird Surveillance	Log calls from the public and MVCDs on dead birds. Arrange pick-up.	Continuous	Continuous	Arrange for test if bird has died recently (24-48 h) and belongs to corvid or raptor families.
LAC VPH	Dead Bird Surveillance	Perform VecTest (quick screening test) on dead birds	Continuous	Continuous	Confirmatory testing on positive birds is performed by LACPHL and California Viral and Rickettsial Disease Laboratory (VRDL)

**WEST NILE VIRUS SURVEILLANCE AND PREVENTION
SUMMARY ACTION PLAN – Updated August 3, 2005**

Agency	WNV Activity	Description	Completion Date	Implementation Date	Notes
LAC EH	Collaboration	Work with board officials, county agencies and cities in developing long term, permanent mosquito control services to uncovered areas through annexation or contractual agreements	Continuous	Continuous	West of Quartz Hill toward Santa Clarita along highway 14 Corridor August 1st- Antelope Valley Mosquito and Vector control received \$19,000 from Governor's budget to fund uncovered areas noted above.
LAC EH	Collaboration	Respond to mosquito concerns in those cities and communities without routine mosquito surveillance and control services	Continuous	Continuous	Does not include abatement.
LAC EH	Public education and inter-departmental training	Routine literature distribution throughout all cities within the county and provide training to other departments	Continuous	Continuous	Materials from ACDC
LAC EH	Collaboration	Provide staff to DHS Speakers Bureau	Continuous	Continuous	
LAC EH	Coordination	Facilitate MVCD communications on mosquito and bird findings	Continuous	Continuous	Represent DHS in technical meetings on vector surveillance and control
Local MVCDs	Sentinel chickens Surveillance	Maintain sentinel chicken flocks at various geographic locations	Continuous	Continuous	Chickens are bled biweekly and tested at VRDL

**WEST NILE VIRUS SURVEILLANCE AND PREVENTION
SUMMARY ACTION PLAN – Updated August 3, 2005**

Agency	WNV Activity	Description	Completion Date	Implementation Date	Notes
Local MVCDs	Mosquito Surveillance	Test mosquito pools for arboviruses including SLE, WEE, and WNV	Continuous	Continuous	The CA DHS reports biweekly mosquito surveillance results in CA <i>Arbovirus Surveillance Bulletin</i>
Local MVCDs	Mosquito Abatement	MVCDs receive reports from ACDC and VPH to identify areas of human and animal case activity	Continuous	Continuous	Mosquito larva abatement via larvacide, mosquito fish, and habitat elimination. Controlling adult mosquitoes is not a primary focus of any MVCD
Local MVCDs	Dead Bird Surveillance	Sites for positive birds are evaluated for possible mosquito abatement	Continuous	Continuous	
Local MVCDs	Public Education	Districts' mission includes promotion of personal responsibility to reduce mosquito breeding sites.	Continuous	Continuous	Each MVCD serves a defined catchment area. Outreach thru mailings, billboards, and mass media

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